GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3403
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Impact of Pollution on Taj Mahal
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-American research team has found that burning of Municipal solid waste in the vicinity of the iconic Taj Mahal is significantly contributing to the discolouring of the world heritage monument;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the remedial measures has taken/ being taken by the Government to check the discolouring of Taj Mahal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) A number of studies have been carried out by various research teams regarding discolouring of Taj Mahal. According to one such research, open burning of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in the vicinity of Taj Mahal could contribute to discolouring. However, such discolouring is not necessarily permanent and the colour can be regained significantly by simple cleaning and washing treatments.

(c) For the conservation and cleaning of Taj Mahal, one of the measures is mud pack therapy to the marble surface for removing surface deposits and black/yellow spots. Other measures include reduction of air pollution in the vicinity of Taj Mahal, ban on vehicular movements up to 500 meters from the protected area around the Taj Mahal and various other restrictions imposed in the Taj Trapezium Zone by the Government.

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